

as soon as the committee is through with it. A—

Yes. Q—Now, if you will just take that piece of paper (handing paper to witness), will you kindly look and see what the company admitted its own personal property to be? A—There is no necessity of doing it at all.

Q—I want you to make some figures on it. A—There is no necessity of doing it at all.

Q—It isn't a question of necessity; it is a question of getting this matter straightened out. A—It is right there.

Q—Now, I am going to have you do some accounting right here, and see if we can agree on something. Now, put down there the personal property. I will read it to you, or you can read it yourself. Are you able to write? A—Yes, I am able to write and read figure.

Q—I thought you were. A—But you have it right here without me doing it.

Q—Will you kindly do it? A—No, sir.

Q—I will put this question, then. I suppose I have no incoherent power to compel you to do what you don't want to. I ask you to take the personal property return which I show you there—will you follow these figures? Mr. Hammond, take this down. Take the personal property item, \$17,087.19, deduct from that statement of indebtedness, loans and accounts payable, \$12,213.87 \$4. Now, deducting the debts from the assets, what do you get? Can you tell me? A—You have got—

Q—Have you figured it? A—I have not.

Q—And you don't care to figure it? A—I have told you I won't figure it.

Q—I won't figure it. A—I won't figure it on that. If I wanted to, I could figure it very quick.

Mr. Moss—What do you find that makes, Mr. Hammond?

Mr. Hammond—\$4,875.32.

Mr. Moss—Now, you have also said that there should be deducted from that amount United States securities \$74,000? A—Yes.

Mr. Moss—Just deduct that, Mr. Hammond.

Mr. Hammond—It leaves \$13,933.32.

Q—Is there anything else there that should be deducted? A—Aren't there any other stocks there?

Q—That is all, isn't it? A—You have here New York State Canal Company, you have here 10 per cent of that.

Mr. Hammond—How many of them are there? A—\$8,866.58.

CLAIM OF EXEMPTION.

Mr. Moss—Are they exempt? A—Yes.

Q—How do you know they are? A—I know they are.

Q—Do you know the law on the subject? A—Partly, yes.

Q—What is the law? A—State and United States, as well as city, securities are exempt, as a rule.

Mr. Moss—I am not of any such law, but put down \$8,866.58.

Mr. Hammond—That makes \$2,239.438.08.

Q—Are there any other deductions that you can figure out? A—Ten per cent of the surplus, \$500.00.

Q—Ten per cent of the surplus? A—Of the surplus earnings.

Q—Is that exempt? A—That is, over 10 per cent of the surplus we tax. Ten per cent is exempt, and if they have a surplus of over 10 per cent, it is taxable.

Q—Ten per cent is exempt? A—Yes, sir; and over 10 per cent is taxable.

Mr. Moss—I don't know of any law for that, but if that is the claim the witness makes, deduct \$500.00 from that.

The Chairman—Is there anything to show there is 10 per cent? A—It is right there.

Mr. Moss—Now, there is no statement of any surplus at all. Where do you find any statement of any surplus? Ten per cent of \$7,000.00 is simply 10 per cent of the capital stock; that is all. A—That is right. It is taken as such.

Q—Do you take the capital stock as a surplus? A—No, but the surplus earnings—10 per cent of the gross value. Over 10 per cent is all we have to assess, if there is any surplus earnings.

Q—There is no statement of any surplus earnings at all. A—\$5,071.248.36, the amount of surplus earnings.

Q—Well, \$700.00 is not 10 per cent of \$5,071.248.36? A—That is not 10 per cent of that amount? A—About that.

Q—No. A—A little more.

Q—A difference of \$100.00. Whatever you figured in was 10 per cent of the capital. Well, now, let us assume for a moment that you had a right to deduct of 10 per cent on the capital.

What does that mean?

Mr. Hammond—One million, five hundred and forty-nine thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight dollars and nine cents.

Q—Now, then, allowing you everything that you can talk about is a million and a half. How did you reduce that to \$600,000? A—How much is that?

Mr. Hammond—One million, five hundred and thirty-nine thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight dollars and nine cents.

The Witness—What basis are you figuring on?

Q—On figures you have given. A—I haven't given any figures, Mr. Moss. What is your gross capital there or assets?

GRELL MAKES THE TRUST IN DEBT.

Q—Now, Mr. Grell, we have gone over this thing step by step, and the figures have been put down as you read them, as they were pointed out. Now, I ask you this simple question. After having gone over this figure with you, and having allowed them \$700,000, which does not appear to me to be a proper allowance, but having allowed it, we have a million and a half, and you have accepted by consent of a valuation of \$600,000? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Why did you do it? A—Why did I do it?

Q—A—Why, it is very plain, the figures are here. Capital and stocks; capital stocks, \$15,071,248.36; 10 per cent of the capital, \$1,507,124.83. Real estate, \$13,429,478.08; stocks and other securities, \$2,610,550.20; makes a debt of \$18,788,563.57, and assets of \$15,071,248.36.

Q—Leaves a debt of \$3,717,315.21, you say? A—No, the capital.

Q—The capital \$15,000,000 and the debt \$18,000,000? A—Of real estate deduction.

Q—Now, then, the company was \$1,700,000 worse off than nothing? A—That is true. They had no assessable property.

Q—Who made those figures on that yellow paper? A—That was the chief deputy. That is a return.

Q—Or Mr. Taggart? A—No.

Q—Who? Mr. Grell? A—No.

Q—Or Mr. Taggart? A—Yes.

Q—Mr. Taggart. Now, if you start from there with \$15,000,000, and attempt to deduct from it \$15,000,000, you see that you have started on a very inadequate figure, because the company admits its gross asset to be \$27,000,000 and not \$15,000,000? A—Who took this? This is not my figuring at all.

This is Mr. Feitner's.

Q—That is Mr. Feitner's figuring? But there is your signature "G." on it. A—I know, we have to have three signatures.

Q—You don't sign what you don't know anything about? A—We have as many as we can't know the exact figures in everything.

SIGNED IT WHEN TOLD TO.

Q—You mean to say, then, you have no knowledge of this matter? A—Not this particular one.

Q—And you put your signature on it because Mr. Feitner had done it? A—Of course, we have to do it, couldn't get along otherwise.

Q—Don't you see now, what I told you to do is to sign that you have no knowledge of the valuation, you going to start with a valuation that improves real estate? A—That is true.

Q—And that is \$27,000,000 and not \$15,000,000? A—Oh, no, it is not \$27,000,000.

Q—Doesn't that say so? A—Real estate and personal property.

Q—Real estate and personal property, \$27,000,000? A—Now, let me tell you the true returns.

Q—Very likely not. A—Therefore you have the facts there.

Q—They don't tell you they have more than they have? A—No.

Q—They generally put it underneath? A—You know, Mr. Moss, I didn't handle this.

Q—If they make any error, they err in their own favor? A—Not necessarily.

Q—You haven't known them to tell you they have property that they didn't own? A—I have known them to make mistakes and make the figures larger than they were.

Q—You have? What company did that? A—I don't know. We have had it frequently.

Q—Was it the Standard Oil Company? A—I don't know. I didn't have it.

Mr. Moss—I think Mr. Hoffman wants to look at this? A—Yes, I would like to have it.

(Paper handed to Mr. Hoffman.) I have kept you much longer than I meant to. We were talking to you about the real estate before recess, and I called your attention to blocks 123 to 124, and you noticed that on that block the increase was \$1,655,000, a pretty large increase for one block.

A—Depends on the section, Mr. Moss.

Q—The second report was for the blocks 125 to 127, being Barclay-st., Church-st., Park Place

and Murray-st., and I want you to notice that on that block there is absolutely no increase whatever, except in one case, where \$15,000 is added for an improved building. A—The neighborhood may not have warranted it.

Q—But the block on which \$155,000 was added was included by Barclay-st., Park Place, Broadway, College Place and Murray-st., and we have already seen that the Broadway front didn't have an increase; this block which is not increased at all is Park Place, Church-st., Barclay-st., and the next block, which is \$27,000. There might not have been any improvements there. Probably the next block, there were new buildings there.

Q—But, sir, on the first section there is not an improvement. It is all there, every addition is put for the purpose of equalization? A—But this is here is only a memorandum. That is not a recommendation, Mr. Moss.

Mr. Hoffman—Just one moment. Mr. Moss, this statement is very plain of explanation. I think, if you read from this down, you will find probably that there is no increase in the \$27,000 property that is outside of the State of New York.

Mr. Moss—No, I know just what you are talking about. Mr. Hoffman, "Real estate in other States and foreign countries." We are not talking about real estate at all.

Mr. Hoffman—But the statement goes on, Mr. Moss, to describe what real estate and what personal property in the State of New York, and it shows \$150,000.00 of increase, and then, deducting from that, why, it would make the statement correct.

Mr. Moss—I do not see it.

Mr. Hoffman—I wish you would just read it, or give it to me and I will read it.

Mr. Moss—I cannot make it out.

MR. FEITNER EXPLAINS.

Mr. Feitner—Let me see it, if you please. I think I can tell you what it is. (The paper is handed to Mr. Feitner.) It has been taken on the basis of capital and surplus, in accordance with the ruling of the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals says you must take that of \$7,000.00 capital and \$3,000.00 of surplus, and making the legal deductions of the assessed value of real estate, the stocks which they hold and 10 per cent would make it.

Mr. Hoffman—Won't you read that statement there?

Mr. Feitner—But that does not make much difference, when we take it on the basis of capital and surplus, as the Court of Appeals requires.

Mr. Wilson—Then the capital and surplus together make \$15,000.00?

Mr. Feitner—Yes; \$15,000.00.

Mr. Moss—But, you see, you figure on the real estate, which has already been taxed.

Mr. Feitner—But you must do that under the law. You are giving the valuation of capital and surplus.

Mr. Moss—Well, I am very glad to have the Department put to the explanation of the record. I have been trying very hard to get Mr. Grell to do it, and if Mr. Feitner has got it, satisfactory to himself, why, it satisfies me.

The Witness—I told you that before, Mr. Moss, but you would not take those figures there. It is not my fault; it is his fault.

Q—Now, you notice that in the next block, Mr. Grell, by his own figures, \$15,000.00, which is \$15,000.00, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

Q—What is that? A—That is the value of the plots, which is placed on these plots, and not an increase in the value of the plots.

pointed as a Deputy Tax Commissioner on June 1, 1899. Q—Did you make application, did you not? A—Undoubtedly.

Q—How and when? A—I went to the Civil Service Board.

Q—Did you go to any one else? A—No.

Q—Who recommended you? A—No one.

Q—Did you have any recommendations on your Civil Service papers? A—I have four ordinary stockkeepers.

Q—And you passed an examination, did you? A—I did.

Q—Now, I remember what rating you had on that examination? A—I do not. Either 76 or 78, I believe. I don't know the percentage.

Q—Seventy-six or 78, you say? A—And a fraction.

Q—Seventy-eight I find on the official document.

Q—What business were you in when you were appointed? A—Delicatessen, fancy groceries and hardware.

Q—Where? A—At the foot of East Thirty-fifth-st.

Q—How long did you keep that store? A—It was not a store, it was a corner, it was a grocery store, with three other brothers, since 1876.

Q—Then that wholesale grocery or delicatessen business has been your business since 1876? A—Yes, sir.

HAD REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE.

Q—Have you ever been in the real estate business? A—Right along. We built our own property there, and was agent for some real estate in the mean time.

Q—If you had a large wholesale business there, what time did you have to be agent for other people? A—Any time I took, being concerned in the business.

Q—Did you have to have in the grocery business? A—Definitely stated, four brothers to gether.

Q—You returned on your papers that you are a salesman? A—Salesman in the grocery business; fancy groceries and delicatessen.

Q—Did you have any other business? A—No, sir.

Q—You were simply a salesman there? A—Yes, sir.

Q—You gave me to understand you had three brothers with you in the business; that you and your three brothers owned the business. A—I sold my share of my brothers there in the business.

Q—And they are now in there? A—Yes.

Q—They are now in there? A—Yes.

Q—You were there only as a salesman? A—Yes.

Q—Were you on a salary? A—My oldest brother, who was the agent for the business, was on a salary.

Q—Were you on a salary? A—Yes, sir.

Q—And that was your condition from 1876 on? A—Yes.

Q—What salary are you receiving as a Deputy Commissioner? A—\$1,500.

Q—Whereabouts are you assessing? A—The 14th District of the Borough of Queens.

Q—Queens, what district is that? A—Newtown.

Q—Where do you live? A—First-ave., Manhattan.

Q—That experience have you ever had in Queens County real estate matters? A—I was over there two days a week for the last fifteen years.

Q—Did you what? A—Salesman.

Q—As a salesman, you understood the value of meats and canned goods, of course? A—And of real estate.

Q—And of real estate? A—Which I sold over there.

Q—What real estate did you sell in Queens County? A—I can mention two places in Throop-ave., No. 1.

Q—That is in Queens County? A—That is in Brooklyn.

Q—That is in Brooklyn? A—Yes, but not so far from